

COUNTRY <u>Poland</u>		SECURITY INFORMATION	
TOPIC <u>WOP Officer Candidate School and WOP Training Unit in Rastenburg. (Ketrzyn)</u>		REPORT NO. <u>[REDACTED]</u>	
EVALUATION <u>25X1X</u>		PLACE OBTAINED <u>[REDACTED]</u>	
DATE OF CONTENT <u>[REDACTED]</u>		25X1C	
DATE OBTAINED <u>[REDACTED]</u>		DATE PREPARED <u>3 September 1953</u>	
REFERENCES <u>25X1C</u>			
PAGES <u>2</u> ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____			
REMARKS _____			

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1. Prior to 5 August 1952, the former Infanterie Kaserne in Rastenburg (R 55/A 29), also called Hindenburg Kaserne, quartered a Polish WOP (Border Guard) officer candidate school and a WOP training unit. [REDACTED] "WOP, 25X1
Officerska skola wojska", which, [REDACTED] was the designation 25X1
of the troops quartered at the installation, although other WOP units
besides the officer candidates were also quartered there. All soldiers
observed at the installation wore the green service color of the WOP.
The commandant of the school, who was a lieutenant colonel, frequently
went to Allenstein (R 54/E 66). [REDACTED] a courier was also 25X1
dispatched daily to Allenstein by train to pick up orders.¹
2. The installation consisted of 10 four-story old buildings, about 80 meters
long, and eight new four-story buildings, 40 to 50 meters long, in the
west. These 18 buildings quartered the trainees and the enlisted men of the
training units. The officer candidates definitely occupied four of the old
quartering buildings which faced the road to Bartenstein (R 55/Z 81).¹
Officers and married NCOs lived in billets outside the barracks installation.
3. Soldiers in the barracks installation said that the officer candidates were
being trained at the school for three years and left as lieutenants. They
wore khaki blouses with green epaulets, which mounted the letters OS in
silver embroidery. The silver-bordered green patches mounted oak leaves, also
in silver embroidery, and a sword emblem. The long black trousers had wide
green stripes.¹
4. The WOP soldiers of the training units were not employed for border guard
missions. They wore the khaki uniform of the Polish Army with green cap bands
and patches. Most of them were Poles by birth of the 1928 to 1931 classes who
had to serve for two years. Some Germans, who had applied for Polish
citizenship also belonged to the training units. About 150 soldiers, who
were quartered in the western section of the barracks installation, were
mounted. The units also included a dog section of about 50 shepherd-dogs.
The officer corps included one lieutenant colonel and two majors, who
wore Polish Army uniforms, but frequently spoke Russian. The soldiers
said that they were Soviet officers.¹

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- 2 -

5. The companies leaving the barracks installation for training carried only light and heavy infantry weapons including light mortars. No armored vehicles or other heavy weapons were observed in the entire Rastenburg post area. The three motor-vehicle storage sheds in the western section of the barracks installation contained some trucks on which the officer candidates or soldiers were occasionally taken to inspections of the border. Another motor-vehicle garage directly west of the former Artillery Barracks housed about 50 Soviet-made trucks without superstructures, which arrived by rail in 1952 and were not used. Guards said that these trucks belonged to the WOP unit. All vehicles at the barracks installation were marked by a large yellow T in a yellow-bordered square.¹
6. The WOP units frequently did field training on a training ground on both sides of the road to Bartenstein in the direction of the water tower. Field fortifications, dummy tanks, dummy houses and entanglements of every type were seen there. The soldiers also received regular border guard training near the Guber Rivulet southwest of the barracks installation. The terrain on both sides of this rivulet was an imitated border area with border posts, road blocks and a customshouse. Advanced combat firing were held in the area south and southwest of the barracks installation.¹ From 1949 to 1952, a large tent camp was annually set up opposite the barracks installation and south of the road to Bartenstein during the summer months. Starting in June of each year, the camp was occupied by about 1,000 WOP soldiers, who said that they were inducted to receive three months of training. These soldiers came from all parts of Poland and, in source's opinion, underwent basic training in the camp. They included age classes of about 22 to about 35 years.²
7. Prior to August 1952, the former Artillery Barracks north of the city quartered no troops. The installation had been occupied by a sporting equipment factory for a fairly long period, probably since 1948.
8. [] the 1932 class was scheduled to be inducted in 1952. The Polish recruiting office in Rastenburg was in the southern sector of the city. The district office of the Polish security service and the district office of the militia were in the building of the former Amtsgericht on ul. Wojska Polskiego, formerly Schul Strasse. No military supply installations were known to exist in Rastenburg. The troop units in the town were supplied from outside. The installations of the former Fuehrer-Hauptquartier "Wolfsschanze" were not used. Prior to August 1952, source observed no indications that this site would be used again. Armored cupolas and other metal parts were dismantled and shipped away. Since individuals entering the installations frequently met with accidents caused by exploding mines this area was avoided.³

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25X1A¹. [] Comment. The WOP officer candidate school at the Infanterie Kaserne in Rastenburg was last confirmed in September 1952. [] Another report of August 1952 supplied information on the training ground mentioned. []

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25X1A 2. [] Comment. This information is believed to refer to basic training done by supernumeraries and reservists. []

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